

UPI  
12 November 1982

## US INTELLIGENCE GAP: EXPERT SAYS CIA LACKS KNOWLEDGE ON SOVIETS

BY WILLIAM J. HOLSTEIN

NEW YORK (UPI) -- SOME SOVIET KGB AGENTS WEAR BROOKS BROTHERS SUITS AND SPEAK AMERICAN SLANG. INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS IN MOSCOW UNDERSTAND SUCH ARCANE SUBJECTS AS OKLAHOMA'S PRIMARY ELECTION LAWS AND THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

BUT SOME CIA ANALYSTS OF SOVIET AFFAIRS DO NOT EVEN SPEAK OR READ THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE AND ARE CONSIDERED "WASHOUTS" FROM ACADEMIC LIFE.

AS A RESULT, A LEADING AMERICAN KREMLINOLOGIST SAYS THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT KNOW ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN AN "INTELLIGENT GUESS" ABOUT WHO WILL SUCCEED LEONID BREZHNEV, WHO DIED THURSDAY AT 75.

MARSHALL SHULMAN, HEAD OF COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY'S RUSSIAN INSTITUTE, BELIEVES THE UNITED STATES MUST BOLSTER ITS SOVIET STUDIES AND TRAIN A NEW GENERATION OF SOVIET SPECIALISTS AS RELATIONS BETWEEN THE SUPERPOWERS DETERIORATE.

"IT'S TERRIBLY IMPORTANT FOR US TO DEVELOP AT LEAST A MODEST NUMBER OF PEOPLE TO A VERY HIGH LEVEL OF COMPETENCE ON THE SOVIET UNION," THE FORMER ADVISER TO SECRETARY OF STATE CYRUS VANCE SAID IN AN INTERVIEW.

SHULMAN IS UNDERTAKING A MAJOR EXPANSION OF THE RUSSIAN INSTITUTE, AMERICA'S OLDEST AND STRONGEST SOVIET AFFAIRS CENTER, TO REDRESS THE KNOWLEDGE GAP.

COLUMBIA HAS JUST RECEIVED \$11.5 MILLION FROM FORMER NEW YORK GOV. W. AVERELL HARRIMAN AND THE EXPANDED INSTITUTE HAS BEEN RENAMED IN HIS HONOR. IN ADDITION, SHULMAN IS ATTEMPTING TO RAISE \$5 MILLION TO \$7 MILLION MORE AS PART OF A FIVE-YEAR EXPANSION PLAN.

LENDING URGENCY TO SHULMAN'S EFFORTS IS THE STRUGGLE TO SUCCEED BREZHNEV -- AND U.S. DIFFICULTY IN UNDERSTANDING IT.

POWER ELITES WITHIN THE MILITARY, COMMUNIST PARTY AND KGB ARE JOCKEYING FOR POWER, SHULMAN SAID, AND AMERICAN MOVES DURING THIS SENSITIVE PERIOD COULD HAVE A PROFOUND AND LASTING IMPACT ON THE SUPERPOWER COMPETITION -- FOR BETTER OR WORSE.

MOSCOW DIPLOMATS SAY FORMER KGB CHIEF YURI ANDROPOV AND POLITBURO MEMBER KONSTANTIN CHERNENKO ARE THE LEADING CANDIDATES TO REPLACE BREZHNEV, BUT SHULMAN CAUTIONED AGAINST PREDICTIONS.

"THE TRUTH IS WE DON'T KNOW ENOUGH TO MAKE EVEN AN INTELLIGENT GUESS," HE SAID. "WE DON'T REALLY KNOW ENOUGH ABOUT THE INNER WORKINGS OF THE KREMLIN TO KNOW WHO'S GOING TO COME OUT ON TOP."

CONTINUED